General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 56 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/425/Add.1)*]

61/211. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[2]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 60/228 of 23 December 2005,

Recalling further its resolution 61/1 of 19 September 2006,

Reaffirming its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2004 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010",[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

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[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/59/3, chap. III, para. 49. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

[6] A/61/82-E/2006/74 and Corr.1.

2. *Welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010,[2] including the elaboration of the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010[3] as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the Declaration[4] adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

4. *Acknowledges* the findings of the midterm comprehensive global review, which stressed that despite some progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the overall socio-economic situation in the least developed countries continues to be precarious and requires attention and that, given current trends, many least developed countries are unlikely to achieve the goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action;

5. *Stresses* that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms* that the Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership, whose goal is to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries;

7. *Also reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

8. *Underscores* the fact that for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integrated approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions;

9. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action through their respective national development framework, including, where they exist, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

10. *Urges* development partners to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for the implementation of the Programme of Action;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations Resident Coordinator system to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities;

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[2] A/61/117, annex I.

[3] See resolution 61/1.

12. *Encourages* the Resident Coordinator system and country teams, as well as country-level representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners, to collaborate with and provide support to, as appropriate, the relevant development forums and follow-up mechanisms;

13. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations that have not yet done so to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes and to undertake within their respective mandates multi-year programming of actions in favour of the least developed countries;

14. *Stresses*, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

15. *Also stresses* the crucial importance of integrated and coordinated follow-up, monitoring and reporting for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, at the Secretariat level, the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring and review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, including through such coordination mechanisms as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-agency Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators;

17. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant multilateral organizations, to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate and submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a detailed and clearly defined advocacy strategy aimed at raising awareness about the objectives, goals and commitments of the Programme of Action with a view to facilitating its effective and timely implementation;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an annual analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

General Assembly

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12 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 56 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/425/Add.2)*]

61/212. Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003 and 60/208 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Taking note of the Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of Landlocked Developing Countries,[3]

Recalling the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round,[4]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] A/C.2/61/3, annex.

[4] A/60/308, annex.

Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[5]

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[6] an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

Welcoming the convening of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 10 and 11 November 2006, which adopted the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific,[7]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

4. *Encourages* donor countries and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate technical and financial assistance in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the five priorities outlined in the Almaty Programme of Action,[5] in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls for the early resumption and successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, adhering fully to the agreed mandate in the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[9] the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 1 August 2004[10] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;[11]

6. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor

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[5] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[6] A/57/304, annex.

[7] E/ESCAP/MCT/Rep.

[8] A/61/302.

[9] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[10] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

[11] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

7. *Recalls* that landlocked and transit developing countries have the primary responsibility for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, as envisaged in its paragraphs 38 and 38 bis;

8. *Emphasizes* that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors should be further promoted, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations;

9. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, including the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, and encourages them to continue their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport;

10. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Declaration, [12] to continue its cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries, to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in line with Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and also requests the Office to intensify the efforts to establish effective indicators to measure the progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in close cooperation with relevant organizations;

11. *Decides* to hold a midterm review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2008, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Almaty Programme of Action; the review should be preceded, where necessary, by national, subregional, regional and substantive preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and should be organized within existing resources; intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process; also in accordance with paragraph 49, the Office of the High Representative should coordinate the preparatory process and United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support to the review process;

12. *Encourages* donor countries and the international financial and development institutions as well as private entities to make voluntary contributions

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[12] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation";

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on progress made in the preparation for the midterm review meeting.

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20 December 2006

General Assembly

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8 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 57 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/426/Add.1)*]

61/213. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004 and 60/209 of 22 December 2005,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Expressing its deep concern that, even after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected groups, in particular in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

Encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Recognizes* the contribution that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) has made to poverty eradication, and notes the interest expressed for the proclamation of a second United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty;

2. *Also recognizes* that during the implementation of the Decade the international community adopted, inter alia, the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[5] the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] all of which are mechanisms to focus national, regional and international efforts towards achieving poverty eradication;

3. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

4. *Urges* all Governments, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors to continue to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty;

5. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

6. *Welcomes* the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the International Human Solidarity Day in order to raise public awareness to promote the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty in all countries, in this regard recognizes the useful role the observance of the days continues to play in raising public awareness and mobilizing all stakeholders in the fight against poverty, and encourages a participatory approach to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty;

7. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication

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[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

8. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a comprehensive report evaluating the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including recommendations on maintaining the momentum generated by the implementation of the Decade;

10. *Recognizes* the useful role the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty continues to play in raising public awareness and mobilizing all stakeholders in the fight against poverty, and requests the Secretary-General to take into account his report on the observance of the Day,[6] as well as all other relevant reports concerning poverty eradication, in preparing his comprehensive report on the implementation of the Decade;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)".

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[6] A/61/308.

United Nations A/RES/61/214

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

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61/214. Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997, 53/197 of 15 December 1998, 58/221 of 23 December 2003 and 59/246 of 22 December 2004,

Recognizing the need for access to financial services, in particular for the poor, including access to microcredit and microfinance,

Recognizing also that microfinance, including microcredit programmes, has succeeded in generating productive self-employment and proved to be an effective tool in assisting people in overcoming poverty and reducing their vulnerability to crisis, and has led to their growing participation, in particular the participation of women, in the mainstream economic and political processes of society,

Recognizing further that the majority of the world's poor still do not have access to financial services and that microcredit and microfinance are the subject of significant demand worldwide,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments, such as credit, savings and other financial products and services, in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Bearing in mind also that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors to promote the building of inclusive financial sectors to meet the needs and demands of poor people everywhere, building on the creation of the "Blue Book"[1] as a tool for policymakers seeking to build more inclusive financial sectors,

Noting events organized for the promotion of inclusive financial sectors, including the convening of the Global Microcredit Summit in Halifax, Canada, from 12 to 15 November 2006,

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[1] *Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.A.3).

Welcoming the efforts made in the field of property rights, and noting that an enabling environment at all levels, including transparent regulatory systems and competitive markets, fosters the mobilization of resources and access to finance for people living in poverty,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of awards and prizes to increasing the visibility and awareness of the role of microfinance, including microcredit, in the eradication of poverty, most notably the awarding of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, and on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the successful observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, which constituted a special occasion to raise awareness and share best practices and lessons learned on microcredit and microfinance;

3. *Recognizes* that access to microcredit and microfinance can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Notes* the lack of relevant statistical data on inclusive financial sectors, in particular microcredit and microfinance programmes, in particular at the national and regional levels, and in this regard invites the international community, in particular the donor community, to support developing countries in collecting and preserving necessary statistical data and information on this issue, specifically on defining and measuring access to financial services and products at the country level and measuring the type, quality and usage of such services and products over time;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to fully maximize the role of microfinance tools, including microcredit for poverty eradication and especially for the empowerment of women, and to ensure that best practices in the microfinance sector are widely disseminated;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant stakeholders to support, in a coordinated manner, the efforts of developing countries in capacity-building for microcredit and microfinance institutions, including by improving their policy and regulatory framework;

7. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting policies to facilitate the expansion of microcredit and microfinance institutions in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services, including the identification and development of mechanisms to promote access to sustainable financial services, the removal of institutional and regulatory obstacles and the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering such financial services to the poor;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues".

83rd plenary meeting
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[2] A/61/307.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

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Agenda item 57 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/426/Add.2)*]

61/215. Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, 49/108 of 19 December 1994, 51/170 of 16 December 1996, 53/177 of 15 December 1998, 55/187 of 20 December 2000, 57/243 of 20 December 2002 and 59/249 of 22 December 2004 on industrial development cooperation,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation").[3]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Noting that the reform of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization has enabled it to become more focused, effective and efficient and more capable of delivering concrete outcomes and providing valuable contributions to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also the attention given by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to poverty eradication through its priorities,

Noting further the prevailing industrial gap and disparities between developed and developing countries,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

Recognizing the role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector, and underlining the importance of the benefits of foreign direct investment in that process,

Recognizing also the importance of the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms to the developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition as an effective means of international cooperation in the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session discussed, inter alia, industrial development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* that industrialization is an essential factor in the sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, and in the creation of productive employment, income generation and the facilitation of social integration, including the integration of women into the development process;

3. *Stresses* the critical role of productive capacity-building and industrial development for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Takes note* of the comprehensive review of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization conducted in line with its corporate strategy, which has enabled it to become a more focused, effective and efficient organization, especially for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, capable of delivering concrete outcomes and providing valuable contributions to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Emphasizes* the necessity of favourable national and international measures for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges all Governments to adopt and to implement development policies and strategies to unleash the productivity growth potential through private-sector development, the diffusion of environmentally sound and emerging technologies, investment promotion, enhanced access to markets and the effective use of official development assistance to enable developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to make this process sustainable;

6. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening North-South industrial development cooperation and trade, underlines the importance of a positive investment and business climate, and emphasizes furthermore the importance of North-South trade-related technology diffusion, which has a positive impact on productivity in high-technology industries and on technology-intensive manufacturing activities in developing countries, in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of South-South cooperation in the area of industrial development, and in this regard encourages the international community,

[5] See A/61/305.

including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;

8. *Confirms* the contribution of industry to social development, especially in the context of the linkages between industry and agriculture, and notes that, within the totality of these interlinkages, industry serves as a powerful source of the employment generation, income creation and social integration required for the eradication of poverty;

9. *Calls for* the continuing use of official development assistance for industrial development in the developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, calls upon donor countries and recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of the official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation and to support the efforts of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition to promote industrial development cooperation among themselves, and underlines the importance of mobilizing funds for industrial development at the country level, including private funding and funds from relevant development finance institutions;

10. *Also calls for* the continuing use of all other resources, including private and public, foreign and domestic resources, for industrial development in the developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition;

11. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support for the sustainable industrial development of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, and calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to carry out its central role in the field of industrial development according to its mandate;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to enhance its effectiveness, relevance and development impact by, inter alia, strengthening its cooperation with other institutions of the United Nations system at all levels;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to participate actively in coordination at the field level through the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and sector-wide approaches;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to promote the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, including by means of training, education and skills enhancement, with a special focus on agro-industry as a provider of livelihoods for rural communities;

15. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to promote, within its mandate, the development of competitive industries in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, especially in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to increase its contributions to achieve the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[6] with a view to further strengthening the industrialization process in Africa;

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[6] A/57/304, annex.

17. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to build and strengthen its partnership with other United Nations organizations with complementary mandates and activities with a view to achieving greater effectiveness and development impact and promoting increased coherence within the United Nations system;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of information in the replication of best practices in processing, design and marketing, and also recognizes the importance of and encourages South-South cooperation in this respect;

19. *Takes note* of the important role played by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the fields of private- and public-sector industrial development, productivity growth, trade capacity-building, corporate social responsibility, environmental protection, energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energies;

20. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to develop further its global forum capacity according to its mandate, with the aim of enhancing, in the context of the globalization process, a common understanding of global and regional industrial sector issues and their impact on poverty eradication and sustainable development, and calls for further strengthening of the demand-driven integrated programme approach at the field level;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 59 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/428/Add.1 and Corr.1)*]

61/216. United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 59/253 of 22 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the continuing efforts of the United Nations University and its research and training centres and programmes to generate and share knowledge to address the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare as set out in the Charter of the University, and encourages the University to intensify those efforts;

2. *Expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation* for the dedication and commitment, as well as the accomplishments, of Professor Hans van Ginkel during his tenure as Under-Secretary-General and Rector of the United Nations University, allowing the University to significantly grow and progress as an institution in the past ten years;

3. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to Japan and the other host countries of the University and its research and training centres and programmes, and to public and private entities, for the financial, intellectual and other contributions to enhancing the work of the University;

4. *Encourages* the University to intensify its communication and dialogue with Member States, including in particular its host countries, as well as joint activities with other relevant international organizations and educational networks to increase their awareness and understanding of its work, which is essential for strengthening the relevance and outreach of the University, and in this regard takes note with appreciation of the increased level of communication and cooperation between the University and the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the Secretariat, non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in New York, and requests that such activities be continued and further strengthened;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/61/31).

5. *Notes with particular appreciation* the University's support of scholars and academic institutions in developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, including in particular young scholars, through its research and capacity and network development activities, highly appreciates the efforts of the University and its research and training centres and programmes in expanding their cooperative networks of institutions, academic associations and individual scholars worldwide and in developing innovative interdisciplinary programmes that produce concrete outcomes, and encourages the University to further expand those efforts;

6. *Welcomes* the diversification of the University's budgetary sources, and encourages the international community to provide voluntary contributions in order to ensure a sound funding base for the activities of the University;

7. *Notes with interest* the signing of the agreement to establish a new research and training centre, the United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health, in Kuala Lumpur, and encourages the University to continue its efforts to expand and strengthen its network of research and training centres and programmes in furtherance of the needs of developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development programmes, in resolving pressing global problems, and to keep Member States informed of the progress;

9. *Requests* the University to make renewed efforts to identify the critical areas where University research is most needed by other United Nations organizations and to carry out research that yields effective outcomes contributing to policymaking in the United Nations system, and encourages the University to disseminate the outcome of its research more widely and to make it available in a readily accessible form;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts made by the University to streamline and improve the administrative management at its headquarters in Japan, requests that such reform measures be continued to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the University's operations, and encourages the renewed efforts of the University to implement its projects in an efficient and cost-effective manner in order to make the best use of the resources placed at the disposal of the University;

11. *Takes note* of the full integration of activities of the United Nations University-Institute for New Technologies with the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology of Maastricht University and the subsequent renaming of the Institute as the United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology;

12. *Takes note*, in particular, of the progress made by the University in forging cooperative links with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat related to the Water Virtual Learning Centre and with the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat in relation to the research of the United Nations University-Programme for Comparative Regional Integration Studies on comparative regional integration;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the University's contributions to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005 and to the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;

14. *Welcomes* the planned external evaluation of the University after its thirtieth year of operation in the framework of its quality assurance procedures, and requests that the evaluation, which is to commence early in 2007, be undertaken to thoroughly review how and to what extent the University and its activities have met the original mission assigned to the University and be used as a means to strengthen the University's capacity development activities and its role as a think tank for the United Nations system;

15. *Decides* that, instead of being submitted in 2008, the report of the Council of the United Nations University and other reports on the work of the University shall be submitted biennially to the Economic and Social Council, rather than to the General Assembly for its consideration, beginning in 2009.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

General Assembly

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12 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 69 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/429/Add.1 and Corr.1)*]

61/217. Special economic assistance for the Philippines

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the oil spill from the oil tanker that sank thirteen nautical miles off the south-western coast of the Province of Guimaras in the central Philippines on 11 August 2006, resulting in that country's unprecedented maritime ecological disaster,

Aware that the geographical features and location of the Philippines make it prone to natural and man-made disasters,

Acknowledging with appreciation the timely assistance extended by the international donor community, in particular the Governments of Australia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan and the United States of America, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization,

Noting the immediate response by the Government of the Philippines to this ecological disaster, which is straining its limited resources in the needed massive clean-up operations, and its request for international support,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and people of the Philippines;

2. *Invites* Member States and concerned United Nations bodies, as well as international financial institutions and development agencies, to provide additional economic and technical assistance in the post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

3. *Invites* the international community and the United Nations system and other international organizations to increase their support for the strengthening of the disaster risk management and disaster preparedness capacity of the Philippines;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, as part of his consolidated report submitted under the sub-item entitled "Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions", on the collaborative effort extended to the Philippines and the progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and clean-up efforts in the affected communities.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 69 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/429/Add.1 and Corr.1)*]

61/218. Humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of Liberia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994, 50/58 A of 12 December 1995, 51/30 B of 5 December 1996, 52/169 E of 16 December 1997, 53/11 of 16 November 1998, 55/176 of 19 December 2000, 57/151 of 16 December 2002 and 59/219 of 22 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for selected countries and regions,[1]

Commending the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the International Contact Group on the Mano River Basin, the United Nations system and its specialized agencies, donor countries and institutions, and governmental and non-governmental organizations for their continued support for the peacebuilding process and the development of Liberia,

Commending also the United Nations Mission in Liberia for its important role in the maintenance of peace and stability in the country,

Noting with appreciation the holding of democratic elections in October and November 2005, which culminated in the inauguration in January 2006 of the first democratically elected woman president in Africa,

Noting the progress made in a number of areas, including the consolidation of governmental authority throughout the country, evidenced by the national development agenda, which encompasses four benchmarks: security, good governance and the rule of law, economic revitalization and infrastructure, and basic services, which are also important elements for sustainable economic growth and development,

Realizing that, in spite of the positive gains of the recent past, the situation in Liberia remains fragile and still constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the subregion,

[1] A/61/209.

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, donor countries and institutions, the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations for their valuable support in their adoption of a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding in Liberia and the subregion;

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continued efforts in mobilizing the international community, the United Nations system and other organizations to provide assistance to Liberia;

3. *Invites* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to Liberia to facilitate the continued creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of peace, socio-economic development and regional security, including by emphasizing capacity-building, institution-building and employment generation in their work and ensuring that such work complements and contributes to the development of an economy characterized by a predictable investment climate conducive to entrepreneurship, good governance and the rule of law;

4. *Invites* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to support the Government's national reconstruction and development agenda, including the poverty reduction strategy process and the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the round-table conference of donors for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia planned for early 2007, and invites the participation of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies in close collaboration with the Government of Liberia and its development partners;[2]

6. *Urges* the Government to continue to create an environment conducive to the promotion of socio-economic development, peace and security in the country, to the reintegration of internally displaced persons and to its commitment to ensure the upholding of human rights, the rule of law and national reconciliation;

7. *Appeals* to the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate assistance to programmes and projects identified in the present report of the Secretary-General;[1]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue his efforts in coordinating the work of the United Nations system and to mobilize financial, technical and other assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia;

(*b*) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to consider at its sixty-third session the status of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

[2] See S/2006/743, para. 52.

General Assembly

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13 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 69 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/429/Add.1 and Corr.1)*]

61/219. International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions in which it called upon the international community to continue to render material, technical and financial assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola, including resolution 59/216, adopted by consensus on 22 December 2004,

Recalling also that the Security Council, in its resolution 922 (1994) of 31 May 1994 and subsequent resolutions adopted as from 2001, the President of the Security Council, in statements on Angola, and the General Assembly, in all of its resolutions on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola, have, inter alia, called upon the international community to provide economic assistance to Angola,

Bearing in mind that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating the conditions for long-term development and poverty reduction in Angola lies with the Government of Angola, together with, where appropriate, the participation of the international community,

Noting the importance of international engagement for the consolidation of peace in Angola,

Noting with satisfaction the successful implementation of and effective compliance with the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol,[1]

Noting that an economically revived and democratic Angola will contribute to regional stability,

Noting with satisfaction the recent election of Angola as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission,

Recalling the first Round-Table Conference of Donors, held in Brussels from 25 to 27 September 1995,

Welcoming the efforts made by donors and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to provide humanitarian, economic and financial assistance to Angola,

[1] S/1994/1441, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for selected countries and regions;[2]

2. *Recognizes* the primary responsibility of the Government of Angola for the welfare of its citizens, including returning refugees and internally displaced persons, together with the support of the international community;

3. *Recognizes also* the efforts undertaken by the Government of Angola towards ensuring the maintenance of the peace and national security so necessary for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and economic stabilization of the country, and in this context encourages the Government, with the support of the international community, to continue its efforts for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including, inter alia, social reintegration, mine action, rural development and food security, gender mainstreaming, education and the rehabilitation of social and economic infrastructures;

4. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of the Government of Angola to improve governance, transparency and accountability in the management of public resources, including natural resources, encourages the Government of Angola to continue its efforts to that end, and calls upon international organizations and others in a position to do so to assist the Government of Angola in this endeavour, including through the promotion of responsible business practices;

5. *Recognizes* the role that South-South cooperation is playing in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the economy of Angola;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Angola to the development and strengthening of its democratic institutions, encourages the Government of Angola, with the necessary support of the international community, to continue its efforts with a view to holding legislative and presidential elections, as both would accelerate and consolidate the democratic development of the country, and in this regard welcomes the beginning of the voter registration process on 15 November 2006 as part of the road map for the holding of legislative and presidential elections;

7. *Commends* the Government of Angola for its leadership, coordination and successful implementation of the programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and for ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need, all of which contribute to placing the country on the path to sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and the governmental and non-governmental organizations that are participating in humanitarian assistance programmes in Angola, including mine-action activities, and appeals for their continued contribution to humanitarian mine-action activities in a manner complementary to that of the Government;

9. *Expresses its gratitude* to donors and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for the assistance provided to Angola in support of initiatives and programmes for the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis and poverty eradication.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

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[2] A/61/209.

General Assembly

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13 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 69 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/61/429/Add.2)]

61/220. Participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001 and 58/118 of 17 December 2003,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 A and B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Emphasizing the need for coordination between relief and development activities in the context of humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recognizing that the international community, in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of man-made and natural disasters and chronic situations characterized by hunger, malnutrition and poverty, must rely not only on the formulation of a well-coordinated global response within the framework of the United Nations but also on the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Recalling once again that prevention, preparedness and contingency planning for emergencies on a global level depend, for the most part, on the strengthening of local and national response capacities, on the availability of financial resources, both domestic and international, and on the effective use of those resources,

Recognizing the need to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[2] prepared in pursuance of its resolution 58/118 on the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development, especially in the three main areas on which action has been focused, namely dissemination of the concept of volunteerism, support to Latin American and Caribbean countries and response to requests for emergency assistance;

2. *Recognizes* the effort being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen national and regional agreements aimed at facilitating coordination between the United Nations system and trained standby national volunteer corps, in accordance with accepted United Nations procedures, through the United Nations Volunteers and other agencies of the system;

3. *Notes* the emphasis placed on the development of mechanisms to facilitate the local management of humanitarian emergencies, through the organization and participatory involvement and empowerment of affected communities and the training of the members of local volunteer corps;

4. *Recognizes* the effort of the White Helmets model in helping to involve stricken populations or those at risk in the tasks of planning, training, mobilizing and providing immediate response in disaster situations;

5. *Notes* the importance of international efforts being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen the comprehensive regional mechanisms for managing prevention and response activities in emergency and disaster situations, in particular its model for setting up regional networks of focal points, with a view to linkage with other international structures;

6. *Encourages* Member States to identify their respective national focal points for the White Helmets in order to continue to provide the United Nations system with an accessible global network of rapid response facilities in the event of humanitarian emergencies;

7. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the World Food Programme and the White Helmets to coordinate integration mechanisms that allow for joint action in the framework of food security, on the basis of their general agreements of 1998;

8. *Encourages* operational partners of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Volunteers and the World Health Organization, in providing psychosocial support to the disaster-affected population in emergency and disaster situations, to draw, as appropriate, upon the voluntary expertise of the White Helmets, which has been successfully tested, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his report;

9. *Recognizes* that the White Helmets initiative can play an important role in the promotion, diffusion and implementation of the decisions adopted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and invites Member States in a position to do so to consider means to ensure the integration of the White Helmets initiative into their programme activities and to make financial resources available to the Special Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Volunteers;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the extensive international work experience acquired by the White Helmets, as recognized by the General

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[2] A/61/313.

Assembly since the adoption of its resolution 49/139 B, the first resolution on the White Helmets initiative, and in view of the success of coordinated actions carried out with, inter alia, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers, to suggest measures to enhance the integration of the White Helmets initiative with the work of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session in a separate section of the annual report on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

General Assembly

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14 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 44

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.11/Rev.2 and Add.1)]

61/221. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolutions 56/6 of 9 November 2001, on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128 of 19 December 2003, on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23 of 11 November 2004, on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and 59/199 of 20 December 2004, on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance,

Underlining the importance of promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language, and recalling that all States have pledged themselves under the Charter to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Taking note of the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] in which the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity, reaffirmed the value of the dialogue on interfaith cooperation and committed themselves to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging and promoting tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation at the local, national, regional and international levels and among different cultures, civilizations and peoples in order to promote international peace and security,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 60/1.

Alarmed that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, are on the increase in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing the need, at all levels of society and among nations, for strengthening freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, respect for diversity of culture and religion or belief, dialogue and understanding, which are important elements for peace, and convinced that the guiding principles of democratic society need to be actively promoted by the international community,

Reaffirming that freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity, and that in ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image, care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known,

Affirming the need for all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the targeting of different religions and cultures,[1] contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes and reduce the potential for animosity, clashes and even violence,

Considering that tolerance for cultural, ethnic, and religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions may generate hatred and violence among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Recognizing the richness of nomadic civilization and its important contribution to promoting dialogue and interaction among all forms of civilization,

Taking note of the valuable contribution of various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, such as the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, the Bali Declaration on Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community,[2] the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, Enlightened Moderation, the Informal Meeting of Leaders on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace,[3] the Islam-Christianity Dialogue, the Moscow World Summit of Religious Leaders and the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, which are all mutually inclusive, reinforcing and interrelated,

Mindful that those initiatives identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue, understanding and cooperation,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace,

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[1] As recognized also in Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

[2] A/60/254, annex.

[3] See A/60/383.

1. *Affirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on interreligious dialogue in the context of its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes its focus on concrete action at the global, regional and subregional levels and its flagship project on the promotion of interfaith dialogue;

3. *Recognizes* that respect for religious and cultural diversity in an increasingly globalizing world contributes to international cooperation, promotes enhanced dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations and helps to create an environment conducive to the exchange of human experience;

4. *Also recognizes* that, despite intolerance and conflicts that are creating a divide across countries and regions and constitute a growing threat to peaceful relations among nations, all cultures, religions and civilizations share a common set of universal values and can all contribute to the enrichment of humankind;

5. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question;

6. *Urges* States, in compliance with their international obligations, to take all necessary action to combat incitement to or acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by hatred and intolerance based on culture, religion or belief, which may cause discord and disharmony within and among societies;

7. *Also urges* States to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life and to make all efforts to enact or rescind legislation, where necessary, in order to prohibit any such discrimination, and to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance on the grounds of religion or belief;

8. *Reaffirms* that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society as a whole in the States in which such persons live, and urges States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic and political institutions, organizations and practices so that they are more fully participatory and avoid the marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

9. *Encourages* Governments to promote, including through education, as well as the development of progressive curricula and textbooks, understanding, tolerance and friendship among human beings in all their diversity of religion, belief, culture and language, which will address the cultural, social, economic, political and religious sources of intolerance, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so, in order to promote understanding, tolerance, peace and friendly

relations among nations and all racial and religious groups, recognizing that education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace;

10. *Recognizes* the contribution of the media to developing a better understanding among all religions, beliefs, cultures and peoples and to facilitating a dialogue among societies, as well as to creating an environment conducive to the exchange of human experience;

11. *Supports* practical initiatives at the regional and national levels by all parties concerned, including the media representatives themselves, to encourage the media to enhance its capacity in promoting interfaith and intercultural understanding and cooperation for peace, development and human dignity;

12. *Encourages* the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

13. *Affirms* that the relevant United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, shall endeavour to undertake coordinated measures to promote universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity and to prevent instances of intolerance, discrimination and incitement of hatred against members of any community or adherents of any religion or belief;

14. *Decides* to convene in 2007 a high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural cooperation for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity, in coordination with other similar initiatives in this area;

15. *Decides also* to consider declaring one of the coming years as the Year of Dialogue among Religions and Cultures;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the systematic and organizational follow-up of all interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational matters within the United Nations system and overall coordination and coherence in its interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation efforts, inter alia, through the designation of a focal unit in the Secretariat to handle these matters;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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20 December 2006

General Assembly

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16 March 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 71 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.30 and Add.1)*]

61/222. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997, 54/33 of 24 November 1999, 57/141 of 12 December 2002, 58/240 of 23 December 2003, 59/24 of 17 November 2004, 60/30 of 29 November 2005 and other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"),[1]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[2] the addendum thereto,[3] the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction[4] and also the reports on the work of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea ("the Consultative Process") at its seventh meeting[5] and on the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,[6]

Emphasizing the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as for the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Emphasizing also the universal and unified character of the Convention, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[2] A/61/63.

[3] A/61/63/Add.1.

[4] A/61/65.

[5] A/61/156.

[6] SPLOS/148.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[7]

Recognizing the important contribution of sustainable development and management of the resources and uses of the oceans and seas to the achievement of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8]

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach, and reaffirming the need to improve cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, in accordance with the Convention, to support and supplement the efforts of each State in promoting the implementation and observance of the Convention, and the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Reiterating the essential need for cooperation, including through capacity-building and transfer of marine technology, to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in global and regional forums and processes dealing with oceans and law of the sea issues,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the ability of competent international organizations to contribute, at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels, through cooperation programmes with Governments, to the development of national capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of the oceans and their resources,

Recalling that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making,

Recalling also its decision, in resolutions 57/141 and 58/240, to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, as recommended by the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[9] and noting the need for cooperation among all States to this end,

Reiterating its concern at the adverse impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including corals, of human activities, such as overutilization of living marine resources, the use of destructive practices, physical impacts by ships, the introduction of alien invasive species and marine pollution from all sources, including from land-based sources and vessels, in particular through the illegal discharge of oil and other harmful

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[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[8] See resolution 55/2.

[9] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

substances, the loss or release of fishing gear and the dumping of hazardous waste such as radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals,

Expressing its concern over the projected adverse effects of anthropogenic and natural climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment and marine biodiversity,

Recognizing that there is a need for a more integrated approach and to further study and promote measures for enhanced cooperation and coordination relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Recognizing also that the realization of the benefits of the Convention could be enhanced by international cooperation, technical assistance and advanced scientific knowledge, as well as by funding and capacity-building,

Recognizing further that hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are critical to the safety of navigation and life at sea, environmental protection, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the economics of the global shipping industry, and recognizing in this regard that the move towards electronic charting not only provides significantly increased benefits for safe navigation and management of ship movement, but also provides data and information that can be used for sustainable fisheries activities and other sectoral uses of the marine environment, the delimitation of maritime boundaries and environmental protection,

Noting with concern the continuing problem of transnational organized crime and threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") for coastal States and the international community as a whole,

Noting the important role of the Commission in assisting States parties in the implementation of Part VI of the Convention, through the examination of information submitted by coastal States regarding the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles,

Recognizing the importance and the contribution of the work over the past seven years of the Consultative Process established by resolution 54/33 to facilitate the annual review of developments in ocean affairs by the General Assembly and extended by resolutions 57/141 and 60/30,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33, and in this context the increase in activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat ("the Division"), in particular in view of the growing number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and servicing of meetings, the increasing capacity-building activities and assistance to the Commission, and the role of the Division in inter-agency coordination and cooperation,

Emphasizing that underwater archaeological, cultural and historical heritage, including shipwrecks and watercrafts, holds essential information on the history of

humankind and that such heritage is a resource that needs to be protected and preserved,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the International Seabed Authority ("the Authority") in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ("the Agreement"),[10]

I

Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 49/28, 52/26, 54/33, 57/141, 58/240, 59/24, 60/30 and other relevant resolutions concerning the Convention;[1]

2. *Also reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention and the vital importance of preserving its integrity;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement;[10]

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Fish Stocks Agreement");[11]

5. *Calls upon* States to harmonize, as a matter of priority, their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention and, where applicable, relevant agreements and instruments, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention do not purport to exclude or to modify the legal effect of the provisions of the Convention in their application to the State concerned and to withdraw any such declarations or statements;

6. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General charts or lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

7. *Urges* all States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in taking measures to protect and preserve objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea, in conformity with the Convention, and calls upon States to work together on such diverse challenges and opportunities as the appropriate relationship between salvage law and scientific management and conservation of underwater cultural heritage, increasing technological abilities to discover and reach underwater sites, looting and growing underwater tourism;

8. *Notes* the effort made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with respect to the preservation of underwater cultural heritage, and notes in particular the rules annexed to the 2001 Convention on the

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.

[11] Ibid., vol. 2167, No. 37924.

Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage[12] that address the relationship between salvage law and scientific principles of management, conservation and protection of underwater cultural heritage among parties, their nationals and vessels flying their flag;

II

Capacity-building

9. *Calls upon* donor agencies and international financial institutions to keep their programmes systematically under review to ensure the availability in all States, particularly in developing States, of the economic, legal, navigational, scientific and technical skills necessary for the full implementation of the Convention and the objectives of the present resolution, as well as the sustainable development of the oceans and seas nationally, regionally and globally, and in so doing to bear in mind the interests and needs of landlocked developing States;

10. *Encourages* intensified efforts to build capacity for developing countries, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to improve hydrographic services and the production of nautical charts, including electronic charts, as well as the mobilization of resources and building of capacity with support from international financial institutions and the donor community;

11. *Calls upon* States and international financial institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes and technical partnerships, to continue to strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research by, inter alia, training personnel to develop and enhance relevant expertise, providing the necessary equipment, facilities and vessels and transferring environmentally sound technologies;

12. *Recognizes* the need to build the capacity of developing States to raise awareness of, and support implementation of, improved waste management practices, noting the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to the impact of marine pollution from land-based sources and marine debris;

13. *Also recognizes* the importance of assisting developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, in implementing the Convention, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and agencies, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds, as referred to in resolution 57/141, established for this purpose;

14. *Encourages* States to use the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[13] and recalls the important role of the secretariat of the

[12] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum: *Resolutions*, resolution 24, annex.

[13] See Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, document IOC/INF-1203.

International Oceanographic Commission in the implementation and promotion of those Criteria and Guidelines;

15. *Also encourages* States to assist developing States, and especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, at the bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral level, in the preparation of submissions to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, including the assessment of the nature and extent of the continental shelf of a coastal State through a desktop study, and the delineation of the outer limits of its continental shelf;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the successful conduct by the Division of regional training courses, most recently in Accra from 5 to 9 December 2005 and in Buenos Aires from 8 to 12 May 2006, the purpose of which was to train technical staff of coastal developing States in the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and in the preparation of submissions to the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations and institutions, to continue making such training courses available;

17. *Also notes with appreciation* the first regional workshop of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ("the Tribunal"), held in Dakar from 31 October to 2 November 2006 on the role of the Tribunal in the settlement of disputes relating to the law of the sea in West Africa;

18. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to support the capacity-building activities of the Division, including, in particular, the training activities to assist developing States in the preparation of their submissions to the Commission, and invites Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat to support the promotion of international law;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, advises the Secretary-General to continue to finance the Fellowship from resources made available through an appropriate Office of Legal Affairs trust fund, and urges Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Fellowship;

20. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the ongoing implementation of the United Nations and the Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme, focusing on human resources development for developing coastal States parties and non-parties to the Convention in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea or related disciplines;

III

Meeting of States Parties

21. *Welcomes* the report of the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;[6]

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York on 14 and from 18 to 22 June 2007, bearing in mind that the current term of office of the members of the Commission expires on 15 June 2007, and to provide the services required;

23. *Calls upon* States parties to transmit to the Secretariat the credentials of representatives attending the Meeting as far in advance as is practicable, and no later than 13 June 2007;

IV

Peaceful settlement of disputes

24. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and significant contribution of the Tribunal to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines the important role and authority of the Tribunal concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement;

25. *Equally pays tribute* to the important and long-standing role of the International Court of Justice with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes concerning the law of the sea;

26. *Notes* that States parties to an international agreement related to the purposes of the Convention may submit to, inter alia, the Tribunal or the International Court of Justice any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of that agreement submitted in accordance with that agreement, and notes also the possibility, provided for in the statutes of the Tribunal and the Court, to submit disputes to a chamber;

27. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, bearing in mind the comprehensive character of the dispute settlement mechanism provided for in Part XV of the Convention;

V

The Area

28. *Notes* the progress of the discussions on issues relating to the regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the Area, and reiterates the importance of the ongoing elaboration by the Authority, pursuant to article 145 of the Convention, of rules, regulations and procedures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and the prevention of damage to its flora and fauna from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area;

29. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the contract signed on 19 July 2006 between Germany and the Authority regarding the exploration of polymetallic nodules in an area in the Pacific Ocean;

30. *Notes* the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Authority by articles 143 and 145 of the Convention, which refer to marine scientific research and protection of the marine environment respectively;

VI

Effective functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal

31. *Appeals* to all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal in full and on time, and also appeals to States parties in arrears with their contributions to fulfil their obligations without delay;

32. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to attend the sessions of the Authority, and calls upon the Authority to continue to pursue all options, including the issue of dates, in order to improve attendance in Kingston and to ensure global participation;

33. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal[14] and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;[15]

34. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Tribunal's rules and staff regulations promoting the recruitment of a geographically representative staff in the Professional and higher categories, and calls for wider dissemination of vacancy announcements to achieve that goal;

VII

The continental shelf and the work of the Commission

35. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention that are in a position to do so to make every effort to submit information to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, in conformity with article 76 of the Convention and article 4 of annex II to the Convention, taking into account the decision of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;[16]

36. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission,[17] that it is giving current consideration to five submissions that have been made regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and that a number of States have advised of their intention to make submissions in the near future;

37. *Notes* that the anticipated heavy workload of the Commission, owing to an increasing number of submissions, places additional demands on its members and the Division, and in that regard emphasizes the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise;

38. *Emphasizes* the need to maintain, to the extent possible given the term of office of the members of the Commission, continuity in the composition of subcommissions throughout the consideration of a submission;

39. *Takes note* of the decision of the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to address, as a matter of priority, issues related to the workload of

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[14] SPLOS/25.

[15] ISBA/4/A/8, annex.

[16] SPLOS/72.

[17] CLCS/50 and CLCS/52.

the Commission and funding for its members attending the sessions of the Commission and the meetings of the subcommissions;[18]

40. *Calls upon* States whose experts are serving on the Commission to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

41. *Endorses* the call by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to strengthen the Division, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, for the purpose of enhancing its technical support for the Commission;

42. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary actions to ensure that the Commission can fulfil the functions entrusted to it under the Convention;

43. *Encourages* States to make additional contributions to the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the Convention;

44. *Expresses its concern* regarding the resources available in the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, and urges States to make additional contributions to the trust fund;

45. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Commission in New York from 5 March to 13 April 2007 and from 20 August to 7 September 2007, respectively, on the understanding that the following periods will be used for the technical examination of submissions at the Geographic Information System laboratories and other technical facilities of the Division: 5 to 23 March 2007; 9 to 13 April 2007; 20 to 24 August 2007; and 4 to 7 September 2007;

46. *Expresses its firm conviction* about the importance of the work of the Commission, carried out in accordance with the Convention, including with respect to the participation of the coastal State in relevant proceedings concerning its submission;

47. *Notes with satisfaction* the amendments to rule 52 of and annex III to the rules of procedure of the Commission,[19] and recognizes the continued need for active interaction between submitting States and the Commission;

48. *Encourages* States to continue exchanging views in order to increase understanding of issues, including expenditures involved, arising from the application of article 76 of the Convention, thus facilitating preparation of submissions by States, in particular developing States, to the Commission;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Member States, to continue supporting and organizing workshops or symposiums on scientific and technical aspects of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf

[18] See SPLOS/144.

[19] See CLCS/50, paras. 36 and 43.

beyond 200 nautical miles, taking into account the deadline for submissions, and welcomes initiatives of States in coordination with the United Nations, such as the international symposium held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 March 2006;

VIII

Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

50. *Encourages* States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the safety and security of navigation and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with the Convention, aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements;

51. *Welcomes* the adoption of the consolidated Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, by the International Labour Conference on 23 February 2006, and encourages States to become parties to that Convention;

52. *Also welcomes* the adoption and continuing review by the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization of Guidelines on Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident,[20] and encourages States to implement the Guidelines;

53. *Calls upon* States to consider becoming members of the International Hydrographic Organization, and urges all States to work with that Organization to increase the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis to enhance capacity-building and technical assistance and to promote safe navigation, especially in areas used for international navigation, ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas;

54. *Encourages* States to draw up plans and to establish procedures to implement the Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance;[21]

55. *Notes* the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in March 2004,[22] and encourages States concerned to continue their efforts in the implementation of all areas of the Action Plan;

56. *Also notes* that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law; that States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials; that States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns; and that these concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to

[20] Adopted by the International Maritime Organization Legal Committee on 27 April 2006 as resolution LEG.3(91), and by the International Labour Organization Governing Body on 12 June 2006 at its 296th session.

[21] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.949(23).

[22] Available from www-ns.iaea.org.

enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport;[23]

57. *Encourages* States to cooperate to address threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, through bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms aimed at monitoring, preventing and responding to such threats;

58. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including those relating to assistance with capacity-building through training of seafarers, port staff and enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents, bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law, and by adopting national legislation, as well as providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guarding against fraudulent ship registration;

59. *Calls upon* States to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[24] invites States to consider becoming parties to the 2005 Protocols amending those instruments,[25] and also urges States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments, through the adoption of legislation, where appropriate;

60. *Also calls upon* States to effectively implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and related amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea,[26] and to work with the International Maritime Organization to promote safe and secure shipping while ensuring freedom of navigation;

61. *Takes note* of the adoption by the International Maritime Organization of amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea introducing the long-range identification and tracking of ships system;[27]

62. *Notes* the work of the International Maritime Organization with regard to the preparation of the wreck removal convention for the prompt and effective removal of wrecks which may pose a hazard to navigation or the marine environment;

63. *Requests* States to take appropriate measures with regard to ships flying their flag or of their registry to address hazards that may be caused by wrecks and drifting or sunken cargo to navigation or the marine environment;

64. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to improve the protection of offshore installations by adopting measures related to the prevention, reporting and investigation of acts of violence against installations, in accordance with international law, and by implementing

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[23] Resolution 60/1, para. 56 (o).

[24] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1678, No. 29004.

[25] International Maritime Organization, documents LEG/CONF.15/21 and LEG/CONF.15/22.

[26] International Maritime Organization, documents SOLAS/CONF.5/32 and 34.

[27] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 81/25/Add.1, annex 2, resolution MSC.202(81).

such measures through national legislation to ensure proper and adequate enforcement;

65. *Calls upon* States to ensure freedom of navigation and the rights of transit passage and innocent passage in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention;

66. *Welcomes* the work of the International Maritime Organization relating to the protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance and significance, and in particular in enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in straits used for international navigation, and calls upon the International Maritime Organization, States bordering straits and user States to continue their cooperation efforts to keep such straits safe and open to international navigation at all times, consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

67. *Calls upon* user States and States bordering straits for international navigation to cooperate by agreement on matters relating to navigational safety, including safety aids for navigation, and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships;

68. *Welcomes* the progress in regional cooperation, including the Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur Statements on Enhancement of Safety, Security and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, adopted on 8 September 2005[28] and 20 September 2006,[29] respectively, the progress made in establishing a cooperative mechanism on safety of navigation and environmental protection to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, shipping industry and other stakeholders and in implementing the Marine Electronic Highway Demonstration Project for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the entry into force of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia on 4 September 2006, by which the Information Sharing Centre was launched and established in Singapore in November 2006, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;

69. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[30] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[31] and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

70. *Calls upon* States to ensure that masters on ships flying their flag take the steps required by relevant instruments[32] to provide assistance to persons in distress at sea, and urges States to cooperate and to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the amendments to the International Convention on

[28] A/60/529, annex II.

[29] A/61/584, annex.

[30] Resolution 55/25, annex III.

[31] Ibid., annex II.

[32] The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, and the International Convention on Salvage, 1989.

Maritime Search and Rescue[33] and to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea[34] relating to the delivery of persons rescued at sea to a place of safety, as well as of the associated Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea;[35]

71. *Urges* flag States without an effective maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with, and implementation and enforcement of, their responsibilities under international law and, until such action is taken, to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry, and calls upon flag and port States to take all measures consistent with international law necessary to prevent the operation of substandard vessels;

72. *Welcomes* the adoption by the International Maritime Organization of the resolutions on the establishment of the Voluntary International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme,[36] the Code for the implementation of mandatory International Maritime Organization instruments[37] and the future development of the Voluntary Audit Scheme,[38] and encourages all flag States to volunteer to be audited;

73. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Consultative Meeting of senior representatives of international organizations on the "genuine link" held by the International Maritime Organization in July 2005 in response to the invitation extended to the Organization and other relevant competent international organizations in resolutions 58/14 of 24 November 2003 and 58/240 to examine and clarify the role of the "genuine link" in relation to the duty of flag States to exercise effective control over ships flying their flag, including fishing vessels, and the potential consequences of non-compliance with duties and obligations of flag States described in relevant international instruments;[39]

IX

Marine environment and marine resources

74. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and calls upon all States to cooperate and take measures consistent with the Convention, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

75. *Encourages* States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens and marine pollution from all sources, and other forms of physical degradation, as well as agreements that provide for compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with

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[33] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.1, annex 5, resolution MSC.155(78).

[34] Ibid., annex 3, resolution MSC.153(78).

[35] Ibid., annex 34, resolution MSC.167(78).

[36] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.974(24).

[37] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.973(24).

[38] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.975(24).

[39] See A/61/160, annex.

the Convention aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements;

76. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 24 March 2006 of the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972,[40] and on 14 June 2007 of the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000,[41] and encourages States that have not done so to become parties to those Protocols;

77. *Encourages* States, in accordance with the Convention and other relevant instruments, either bilaterally or regionally, to jointly develop and promote contingency plans for responding to pollution incidents, as well as other incidents that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the marine environment and biodiversity;

78. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme relating to marine debris carried out in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, and encourages States to further develop partnerships with industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss;

79. *Urges* States to integrate the issue of marine debris into national strategies dealing with waste management in the coastal zone, ports and maritime industries, including recycling, reuse, reduction and disposal, and to encourage the development of appropriate economic incentives to address this issue, including the development of cost recovery systems that provide an incentive to use port reception facilities and discourage ships from discharging marine debris at sea, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris;

80. *Welcomes* the decision of the International Maritime Organization to review annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto,[42] to assess its effectiveness in addressing sea-based sources of marine debris, and encourages all relevant organizations and bodies to assist in that process;

81. *Encourages* States that have not done so to become parties to the Protocol of 1997 (Annex VI-Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, and furthermore to ratify or accede to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001,[43] as well as the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004,[44] thereby facilitating their early entry into force;

82. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization in accordance with its resolution on International Maritime Organization policies and

[40] IMO/LC.2/Circ.380.

[41] HNS-OPRC/CONF/11/Rev.1, attachment 1.

[42] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1340, No. 22484.

[43] International Maritime Organization, document AFS/CONF/26, annex.

[44] International Maritime Organization, document BWM/CONF/36, annex.

practices related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships[45] and the work plan to identify and develop the mechanisms needed to achieve the limitation or reduction of CO_2 emissions from international shipping agreed by the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization at its fifty-fifth session from 9 to 13 October 2006,[46] and welcomes ongoing efforts of that Organization in that regard;

83. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the International Maritime Organization in developing and approving an action plan to address the inadequacy of port waste reception facilities, and urges States to cooperate in correcting the shortfall in such facilities in accordance with the action plan;

84. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, convened in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006, and calls upon States to take all appropriate measures to fulfil the commitments of the international community embodied in the Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

85. *Also welcomes* the continued work of States, the United Nations Environment Programme and regional organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages increased emphasis on the link between freshwater, the coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] and of the time-bound targets in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[47] in particular the target on sanitation, and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[48]

86. *Invites* States, in particular those States with advanced technology and marine capabilities, to explore prospects for improving cooperation with, and assistance to, developing States, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, with a view to better integrating into national policies and programmes sustainable and effective development in the marine sector;

87. *Encourages* the competent international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other funding agencies to consider expanding their programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries and to coordinate their efforts, including in the allocation and application of Global Environment Facility funding;

88. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a study, in cooperation with and based on information provided by States and competent international organizations and global and regional funding agencies, on the assistance available to and measures that may be taken by developing States, in particular the least developed States and small island developing States, as well as coastal African

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[45] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.963(23).

[46] International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 55/23, annex 9.

[47] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[48] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

States, to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans within the limits of national jurisdiction, and further requests the Secretary-General to present the study to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session on progress in the preparation of the study;

X

Marine biodiversity

89. *Reaffirms its role* relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, notes the work of States and relevant complementary intergovernmental organizations and bodies on those issues, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and invites them to contribute to its consideration of these issues within the areas of their respective competence;

90. *Welcomes* the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, established by paragraph 73 of resolution 59/24 to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, held in New York from 13 to 17 February 2006, and takes note of the possible options, approaches and timely follow-up process discussed by the Working Group;[4]

91. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraph 73 of resolution 59/24, and with full conference services, a meeting of the Working Group in 2008, to consider:

(*a*) The environmental impacts of anthropogenic activities on marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

(*b*) Coordination and cooperation among States as well as relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies for the conservation and management of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

(*c*) The role of area-based management tools;

(*d*) Genetic resources beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

(*e*) Whether there is a governance or regulatory gap, and if so, how it should be addressed;

92. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the issues referred to in paragraph 91 above in the context of his report on oceans and the law of the sea to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, in order to assist the Working Group in preparing its agenda, in consultation with all relevant international bodies, and to arrange for support for the performance of its work to be provided by the Division;

93. *Encourages* States to include relevant experts in their delegations attending the meeting of the Working Group;

94. *Recognizes* the importance of making the outcomes of the Working Group widely available;

95. *Notes* the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity [49] and the Convention on Biological Diversity elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, [50] as well as the relevant decisions adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006;[51]

96. *Reaffirms* the need for States and competent international organizations to urgently consider ways to integrate and improve, based on the best available scientific information and in accordance with the Convention and related agreements and instruments, the management of risks to the marine biodiversity of seamounts, cold water corals, hydrothermal vents and certain other underwater features;

97. *Also reaffirms* the need for States to continue their efforts to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the possible establishment of marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on the best scientific information available, and the development of representative networks of any such marine protected areas by 2012;

98. *Notes* the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the assessment of scientific information on, and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of, marine areas that require protection, in light of the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools such as the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012;[9]

99. *Also notes* the report of the Scientific Experts' Workshop on Criteria for Identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, held in Ottawa from 6 to 8 December 2005,[52] and encourages experts to participate in follow-up workshops;

100. *Further notes* the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment synthesis reports and the urgent need to protect the marine biodiversity expressed therein;

101. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to urgently take action to address, in accordance with international law, destructive practices that have adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals;

102. *Reiterates its support* for the International Coral Reef Initiative, takes note of the International Coral Reef Initiative General Meetings, held in Koror from 31 October to 2 November 2005, and in Cozumel, Mexico, on 22 and 23 October 2006, supports the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity related to coral reefs, and notes the progress that the International Coral Reef Initiative and other relevant bodies have made to

[49] See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/10.

[50] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex, decision VII/5, annex I.

[51] UNEP/CBD/COP/8/31, annex I.

[52] A/AC.259/16, annex.

incorporate cold water coral ecosystems into their programmes and activities and to promote the conservation and sustainable use of all coral reef resources;

103. *Expresses its concern* that coral bleaching has become more frequent and severe throughout tropical seas over the last two decades, and highlights the need for improved monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events to support and strengthen action during such events and improve strategies to support the natural resilience of reefs;

104. *Welcomes* the publication of the *Status of Coral Reefs in Tsunami Affected Countries: 2005* by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network;

105. *Encourages* States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in exchanging information in the event of accidents involving vessels on coral reefs and in promoting the development of economic assessment techniques for both restoration and non-use values of coral reef systems;

106. *Emphasizes* the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, international financial institutions and the donor community;

107. *Encourages* further studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on marine living resources, and requests the Division to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and to make them available on its website;

XI

Marine science

108. *Calls upon* States, individually or in collaboration with each other or with relevant international organizations and bodies, to improve understanding and knowledge of the oceans and the deep sea, including, in particular, the extent and vulnerability of deep sea biodiversity and ecosystems, by increasing their marine scientific research activities in accordance with the Convention;

109. *Notes* the contribution of the Census of Marine Life to marine biodiversity research, and encourages participation in the initiative;

110. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on the development of procedures for the implementation of Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention and on the development of a consensual text on the legal framework for the collection of oceanographic data within the context of the Convention;

111. *Stresses* the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans/atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, a programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, particularly considering their role in monitoring climate variability and in the establishment of tsunami warning systems;

112. *Recognizes* the significant progress made by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Member States towards the establishment of regional tsunami warning and mitigation systems, welcomes the continued collaboration of the World Meteorological Organization and other United Nations and intergovernmental organizations in this effort, and encourages Member States to

establish and sustain their national warning and mitigation systems, within a global, ocean-related multi-hazard approach, as necessary, to reduce loss of life and damage to national economies and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to natural disasters;

XII

Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

113. *Recalls* that the Ad Hoc Steering Group was established by resolution 60/30;

114. *Takes note* of the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the "assessment of assessments" launched as a preparatory stage towards the establishment of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, held in New York from 7 to 9 June 2006,[53] and urges Member States from the African and Asian regional groups to propose the remaining representatives to the Chairmen of their regional groups so that the appointment to the Ad Hoc Steering Group of those representatives can be made by the President of the General Assembly without further delay;

115. *Urges* the Ad Hoc Steering Group to complete the "assessment of assessments" within two years, as provided for in resolution 60/30;

116. *Welcomes with appreciation* the support of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for the "assessment of assessments" in providing secretariat services to the Ad Hoc Steering Group and establishing the group of experts, as approved by the Ad Hoc Steering Group;

117. *Invites* Member States, the Global Environment Facility and other interested parties to contribute financially to the "assessment of assessments", taking into account the workplan and budget approved by the Ad Hoc Steering Group, in order to complete the "assessment of assessments" within the specified period;

XIII

Regional cooperation

118. *Notes* that there have been a number of initiatives at the regional level, in various regions, to further the implementation of the Convention, takes note in that context of the Caribbean-focused Assistance Fund, which is intended to facilitate, mainly through technical assistance, the voluntary undertaking of maritime delimitation negotiations between Caribbean States, takes note once again of the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, established by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2000 as a primary mechanism, given its broader regional scope, for the prevention and resolution of pending territorial, land border and maritime boundary disputes, and calls upon States and others in a position to do so to contribute to these funds;

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[53] United Nations Environment Programme, document A/61/GRAME/AHSG/1.

XIV

Open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea

119. *Welcomes* the report on the work of the Consultative Process at its seventh meeting,[5] and invites States to consider the agreed consensual elements relating to ecosystem approaches and oceans, as suggested by the Consultative Process, as set out in part A of the report, in particular the proposed elements of an ecosystem approach, means to achieve implementation of an ecosystem approach and requirements for improved application of an ecosystem approach and also:

(*a*) Notes that continued environmental degradation in many parts of the world and increasing competing demands require an urgent response and the setting of priorities for management interventions aimed at conserving ecosystem integrity;

(*b*) Notes that ecosystem approaches to ocean management should be focused on managing human activities in order to maintain and, where needed, restore ecosystem health to sustain goods and environmental services, provide social and economic benefits for food security, sustain livelihoods in support of international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and conserve marine biodiversity;

(*c*) Recalls that States should be guided in the application of ecosystem approaches by a number of existing instruments, in particular the Convention, which sets out the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, and its implementing Agreements, as well as other commitments, such as those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Summit on Sustainable Development call for the application of an ecosystem approach by 2010;

(*d*) Encourages States to cooperate and coordinate their efforts and take, individually or jointly, as appropriate, all measures, in conformity with international law, including the Convention and other applicable instruments, to address impacts on marine ecosystems in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, taking into account the integrity of the ecosystems concerned;

120. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the eighth meeting of the Consultative Process, in New York, from 25 to 29 June 2007, to provide it with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate;

121. *Recalls* the need to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Consultative Process, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations and programmes to provide guidance to the co-chairpersons to this effect, particularly before and during the preparatory meeting for the Consultative Process;

122. *Expresses its concern* regarding the insufficient resources available in the voluntary trust fund established by resolution 55/7 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the Consultative Process by covering the costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance, and urges States to make additional contributions to the trust fund;

123. *Decides* that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea at its forthcoming meetings in 2007 and 2008, the Consultative Process will focus its discussions on the topics "Marine genetic resources" in 2007 and "Maritime security and safety" in 2008;

XV

Coordination and cooperation

124. *Encourages* States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

125. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, as well as funding institutions, and underlines the importance of their constructive and timely input for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes;

126. *Welcomes* the work done by the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including through UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;

127. *Encourages* continued updates to Member States by UN-Oceans regarding its priorities and initiatives, in particular with respect to the proposed participation in UN-Oceans;

XVI

Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

128. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, prepared by the Division, as well as for the other activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

129. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him in the Convention and by the related resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

XVII

Sixty-second session of the General Assembly

130. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report, in its current comprehensive format and in accordance with established practice, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33, and to make the report available at least six weeks in advance of the meeting of the Consultative Process;

131. *Emphasizes* the critical role of the annual comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, which integrates information on developments relating to the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organization, its specialized

agencies and other institutions in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea at the global and regional levels, and as a result constitutes the basis for the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review;

132. *Notes* that the report referred to in paragraph 130 above will also be presented to States parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention regarding issues of a general nature that have arisen with respect to the Convention;

133. *Also notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of, and effective participation of delegations in, the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea and the resolution on sustainable fisheries, and decides to limit the period of the informal consultations on both resolutions to a maximum of four weeks in total and to ensure that the consultations are scheduled in such a way as to avoid overlap with the period during which the Sixth Committee is meeting and that the Division has sufficient time to produce the report referred to in paragraph 130 above;

134. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006

General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.43 and Add.1)*]

61/223. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/10 of 26 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and considered it mutually advantageous to provide for cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and its resolution 59/21 of 8 November 2004, in which it invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake consultations with the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and requested the specialized agencies and other bodies and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate to that end with the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary,

Recalling also the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Considering that the activities of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries complement and support the work of the United Nations,

Welcoming the participation of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in the seventh high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations, held in New York on 22 September 2006,

Recalling the celebration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for the first time, of the Portuguese language day on 5 May 2006,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved in cooperation between the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the specialized agencies and other bodies and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

2. *Welcomes* the signature of the agreement between the the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Community of Portuguese-speaking

Countries on 9 November 2006 regarding consultation, exchange of information and technical cooperation on their respective activities in the field of human rights;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to undertake consultations with the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries with a view to promoting cooperation between the secretariats of the two bodies, in particular by encouraging meetings that enable their representatives to consult one another on projects, measures and procedures that will facilitate and expand their mutual cooperation and coordination;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary to start consultations with a view to considering the establishment of a formal cooperation agreement;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries".

83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006